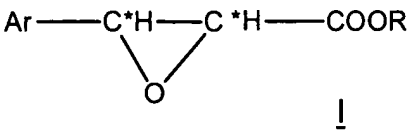
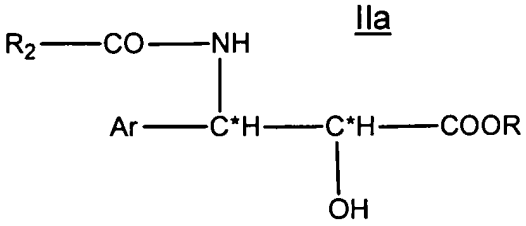
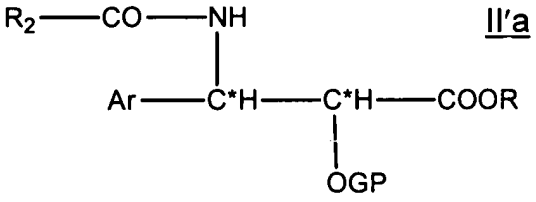


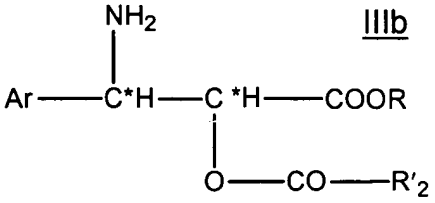
I



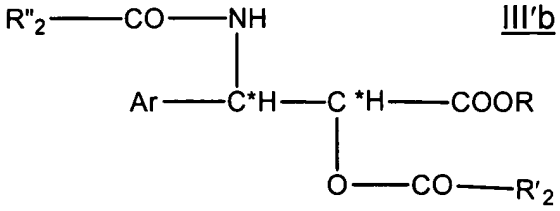
IIa



II'a



IIIb



III'b

wherein

Ar is an aryl radical, R_2 is an aryl radical, R'_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, R''_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, and GP is a protective group, and

R represents an optically pure enantiomer of a highly sterically hindered chiral hydrocarbon radical.

13. (Once Amended) A compound according to one of claims 12 or 14, wherein R is a menthyl radical enantiomer, optionally (+)-menthyl.

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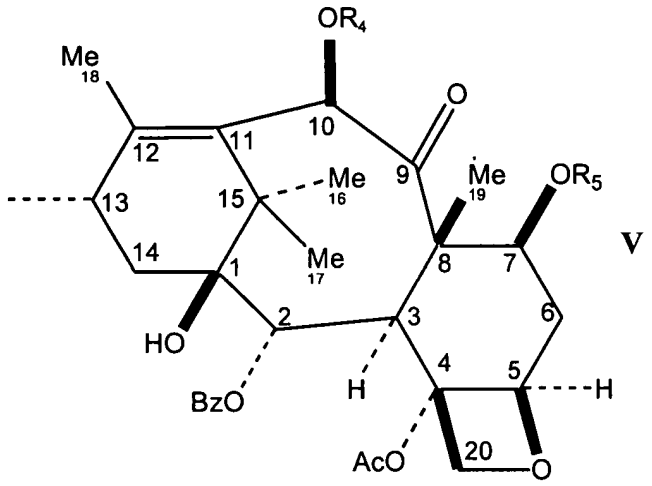
14. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 12, wherein the cis-β-phenylglycidate derivative of general formula I is of (2R,3R) configuration, and the derivatives of general formulae IIa, IIIb and III'b are of (2R, 3S) configuration.

17. A process for preparing a taxane of general formula IV,

C-B IV

wherein

B represents a radical of general formula V



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

Bz is a benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

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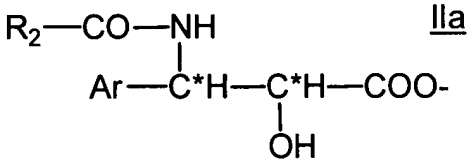
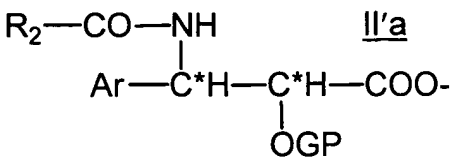
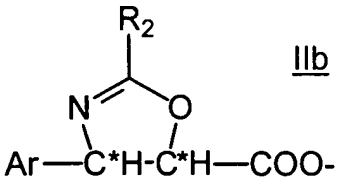
R_4 is an acetyl radical, or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group, represented by GP1,

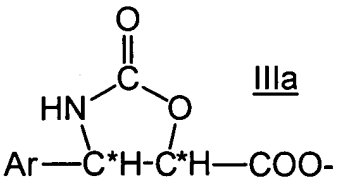
R_5 is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are chosen independently of one another from conventional protective groups employed in a hemisynthesis of taxanes, and

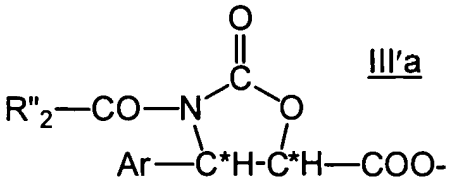
C is a side chain chosen from formulae IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb, and III'b:

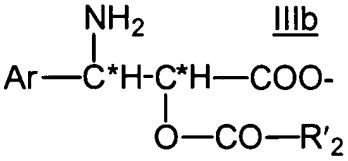


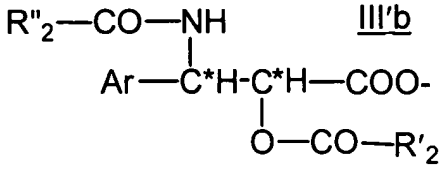












wherein Ar is an aryl radical, R_2 is an aryl radical, R'_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, R''_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, and GP is a protective group, comprising esterifying an appropriate baccatin III derivative of general formula V, carrying a C-13 hydroxyl functional group, with a derivative of

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formulae IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb, or III'b, wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, and is obtained by controlled saponification.

18. (Once Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein the GP1 and GP2 protective groups are independently chosen from trialkylsilyls, TROC, linear or branched bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals comprising at least one halogen atom, acyl radicals in which the carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, or a trialkylgermanyl radical, or GP1 and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula

$$-SiR_7-O-SiR_8-$$

wherein

R_7 and R_8, independently of one another, each represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

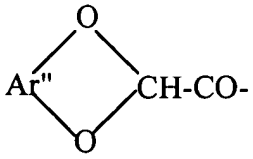
19. (Once Amended) A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein the acyl radicals in which the carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom are chosen from

- alkoxy- or aryloxyacetyl radicals of formula

$$R_6- O - CH_2-CO -$$

wherein R_6 is a sterically hindered alkyl radical, a cycloalkyl radical, or an aryl radical,

- or arylidenedioxyacetyl radicals of formula



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wherein Ar" represents an arylidene radical.

20. (Once Amended) A process according to claim 19, wherein:

the sterically hindered alkyl radical is a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and aryl radicals,

the cycloalkyl radical is a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent independently chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and aryl radicals,

the aryl radical is a phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl or phenanthryl radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or aryl radicals, and

the arylidene radical is a phenylene, naphthylene, anthrylene or phenanthrylene radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and aryl radicals.

21. (Once Amended) A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein R_4 represents an acetyl radical, and GP2 is chosen from a trialkylsilyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-tribromoethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2,1-tetrachloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloro-*t*-butoxycarbonyl, trichloromethoxycarbonyl, phenoxyacetyl, and trialkylgermanyl radicals.

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22. (Once Amended) A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein R_4 represents a GP1 group, and GP1 and GP2 are independently chosen from a 2,2,2-trichloroethoxy-carbonyl and a phenoxyacetyl radical, or together form a divalent radical of formula

$$-SiR_7\text{-}O\text{-}SiR_8-$$

in which R_7 and R_8 each represent an isopropyl radical.

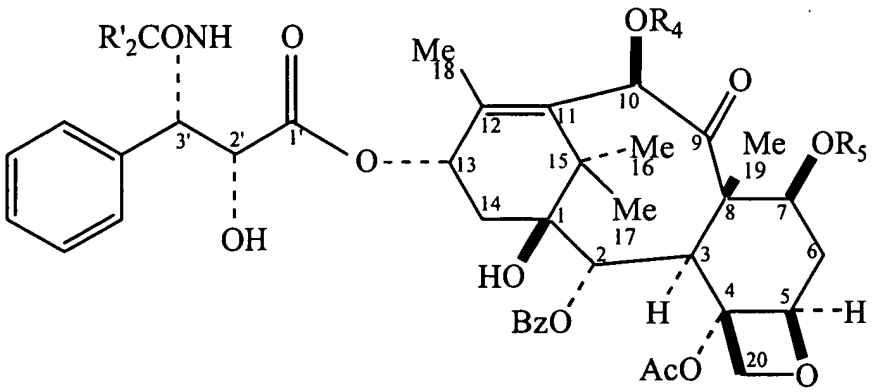
23. (Once Amended) A process according to claim 17 or 18, wherein

C is a radical of formula IIa with Ar; and

R_2 is a phenyl radical; and

R_4 is an acetyl radical.

24. (Once Amended) A process according to claim 17 or 18, further comprising deprotecting the hydroxyls of the derivatives of general formula IV and optionally, simultaneously or separately, opening the oxazoline ring of the radicals of formula IIb or IIIa wherein a taxane derivative of general formula VI is produced



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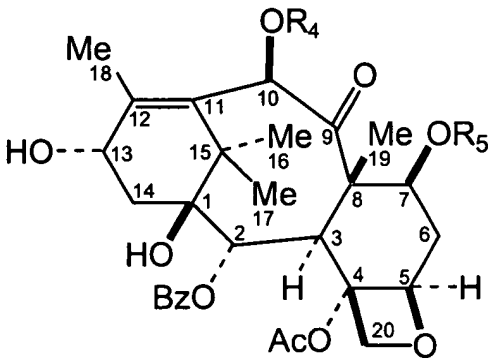
wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical, Bz is a benzyl radical, Me is a methyl radical, and R'_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical,

R_4 represents a hydrogen atom or an acetyl radical, and

R_5 represents a hydrogen atom.

26. (Once Amended) A baccatin III derivative which is of use in the hemisynthesis of taxanes, chosen from derivatives of general formula V



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

Bz is an benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

R_4 is an acetyl radical or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP1,

R_5 is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are selected independently of one another from

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bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals, with the exception of TROC, acyl radicals in which a carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, and trialkylgermanyl radicals, or

GP1and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula

$$-SiR_7-O-SiR_8-$$

wherein

R_7 and R_8, selected independently of one another, represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 27. The method of claim 20, wherein the cycloalkyl radical is cyclohexyl, optionally substituted by at least one linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the cyclohexyl radical is selected from menthyl, its enantiomers, and mixtures of its enantiomers in any proportion.

29. The method of claim 20, wherein the aryl radical is substituted by at least one phenyl radical.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said at least one phenyl radical is substituted by one or two bulky substituents ortho- and ortho'- to the ether bond.

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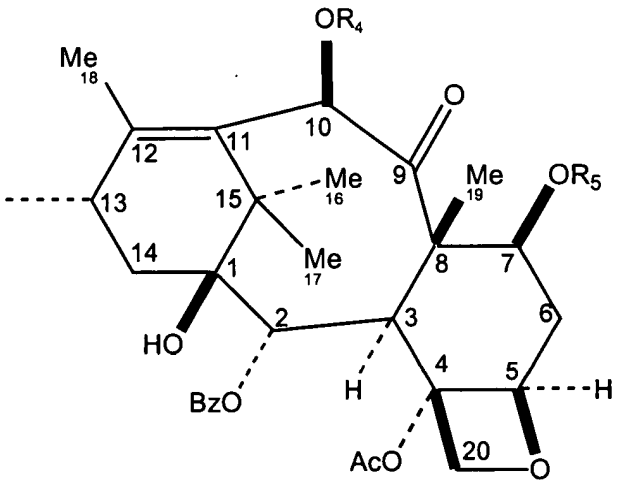
31. The method of claim 20, wherein the arylidene radical is substituted by at least one phenyl radical.

32. A taxane derivative of general formula IV

C-B IV

wherein B is a radical of general formula V:



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

Bz is an benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

R_4 is an acetyl radical, or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group, represented by GP1, and

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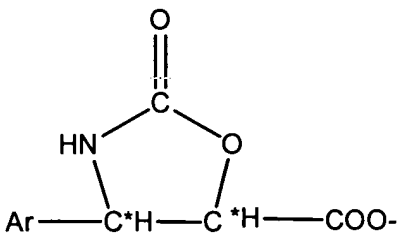
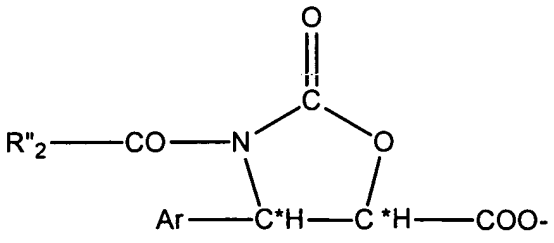
R_5 is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are selected independently of one another from conventional protective groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes;

and wherein C is a side chain selected from formulae IIIa and III'a:



IIIa



III'a

wherein Ar is an aryl radical, and $R"_2$ is chosen from an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, and a lower perhaloalkyl radical.

33. The taxane derivative of claim 32, wherein said conventional protective groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes are chosen from trialkylsilyls and TROC.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 25 have been cancelled, claims 12-14, 17-24 and 26 have been amended, and new claims 27-33 have been added; therefore claims 12-14, 17-24, and 26-33 are pending. Support for these claims occur in the specification and claims as filed. The

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